

# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



*Putting Californians to work*

BLM



California 2010

Bureau of Land Management





# Investing in California's Public Lands

BLM-California received nearly \$40 million to fund more than 100 projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These investments will restore landscapes and habitat, improve infrastructure, spur renewable energy development on public lands, and create jobs.

## **Renewable Energy Authorization = \$6.9 million**

The ARRA projects support renewable energy development to eventually double domestic renewable energy capacity. BLM-California is using ARRA funding to complete ecological assessments and environmental impact statements, and expedite processing rights-of-way applications to help move our nation toward a clean energy economy.

## **Abandoned Mine Land Remediation = \$8.7 million**

With funding received from ARRA, BLM-California is addressing safety at some of the most significant of the 18,000 abandoned mine sites located on California's public lands. BLM is addressing physical safety hazards near public places and high-use areas such as trails and designated off-highway vehicle areas. ARRA projects also are focused on addressing environmental contamination, such as mercury from abandoned mines.

## **Habitat Restoration = \$4.3 million**

BLM-California is using ARRA funding to restore and protect habitats supporting at-risk plant and animal communities. By eradicating invasive plants and restoring native species, endangered and threatened species will have a better opportunity to survive and thrive. ARRA funds are being used for important restoration work in other BLM areas, such as areas of critical environmental concern, wildland-urban interface areas and riparian areas. Riparian-wetland areas are important indicators of watershed health.

## **Roads, Bridges, & Trails = \$2.6 million**

ARRA funds will be used to fund road, bridge and trail projects that improve the infrastructure and enhance recreation experiences. Examples include the Bizz Johnson Trail where an historic railroad trestle will be repaired, the Merced River Road, the Steven's Trailhead and the main access roads through the Carrizo Plain National Monument.



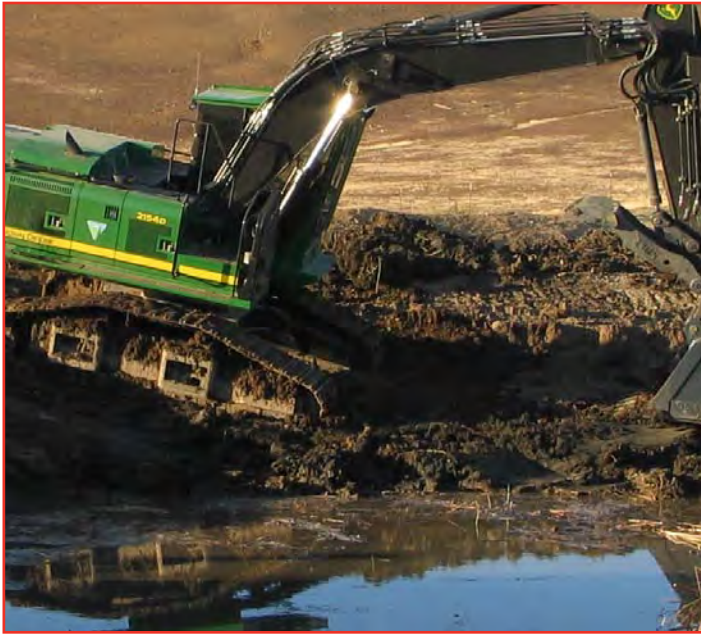
Workers completed improvements at three ponds on Lower Mine Creek. The berms were improved and the area and the depth of the ponds were expanded to benefit species dependent on riparian areas.



Noxious and invasive yellow starthistle and medusahead overtake grasslands at the Clear Creek Management Area.

ARRA funds are expended as quickly as possible to encourage the creation of jobs while accomplishing critical work on public lands. Most of this work is being done through contracts or grants to provide increased employment opportunities.

# Your ARRA Dollars at Work



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Other projects include improvements at Fort Ord Public Lands, work on the Pacific Crest Trail, the Paradise Ridge Mountain Bike Trail in the King Range, and primitive recreation facilities in the Turtle Mountain Wilderness, which created jobs for young people through the Student Conservation Corps. The paving of the Sacramento River Trail created jobs for local contractors. These projects also provide safer transportation routes for visitors to public lands and emergency personnel.

## **Construction & Deferred Maintenance = \$14.1 million**

The BLM maintains many structures to support visitors to public lands. To help maintain these facilities, BLM is investing in capital improvements including the restoration of historic buildings at Piedras Blancas Light Station; installing energy-efficient systems on buildings to reduce energy use and related costs; repairing or replacing the Imperial South Dunes comfort station; paving and repairing trailhead parking at the King Range National Conservation Area; replacing and upgrading 24 aging and deficient communication towers; constructing facilities at popular recreation sites; installing potable water systems and waste water treatment facilities; and replacing buildings due to critical health and safety issues.

## **Hazardous Fuels Reduction = \$3.1 million**

The BLM fuels management program in California helps protect communities and our natural resources while creating local economic opportunities. These funds will enable BLM to treat 4,400 acres. BLM is focusing on collaborative approaches to reduce risk to the public and private lands and providing rural economic opportunities through community wildfire protection plans, fuels treatments, biomass utilization, contracting and consultations. For example, BLM has partnered with the Western Shasta County Resource Conservation District to administer an \$84,000 project. The 100-acre project area is prone to high intensity fire in the highest density urban interface zone within the Redding Field Office area in Shasta County. A biomass treatment will reduce fuel loadings within a half mile of more than 100 homes. The project is expected to produce approximately 1,100 tons of biomass.



Approximately 30 acres were burned as a control measure for the two invasive weeds.

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## "This Job Came at a Good Time...it's Good to be Working Again."

"This job came at a good time -- it helped out for Christmas," says Jason Hill of the Cahuilla Band of Indians, Anza, Calif. "It's good to be working again. I used to work in construction, but, of course, that's all dried up now."

Hill is one of 13 on a crew clearing brush above Poppet Flat, a community in the foothills of the San Jacinto Mountains. "The project was a win-win for everyone," said Kristen Allison, BLM Forestry Technician. "The contractor went to a local reservation, the Cahuilla Band of Indians, and found people eager for work. The Bureau of Indian Affairs paid for the safety training classes needed by the recruits, while the Department of Labor bought the men boots and gloves."

Charles Guachena III, also of the Cahuilla Band of Indians, believes the experience will lead to more opportunities for his reservation.

In 2000, the BLM and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection began working on a large-scale, interagency fuel break to protect Poppet Flat and other nearby communities. The strategy paid off in 2006 when the devastating Esperanza fire jumped Highway 243 headed toward Poppet Flat. As the fire approached the community, the fuel breaks slowed its progress.

Without ARRA funding, fuel reduction in this area would not have happened this year and 13 local men would not have had a job.

## Merced River and Stevens Trail Projects benefit Sierra Foothills

In a \$102,000 public health project in the Merced River Canyon at Briceburg, a water distribution system that meets public health code was installed

to provide water from a new well to a public faucet and an existing residence. The Merced River is a popular recreation site used by whitewater rafters, as well as campers and day use visitors.



ARRA funding also was used in a \$76,000 road rehabilitation project in the Merced River Canyon to repair damage from storm runoff following the 2008 Telegraph Fire. Contractors removed landslides and installed culverts along five miles of the Merced River Recreation Road.

Visitor access to the Stevens National Historic Trail will be improved through a \$77,000 ARRA project. A parking lot at the Colfax trailhead has been surfaced with gravel in the first phase of the project and will be chip sealed and striped in later phases.

Stevens Trail is a popular hiking trail that was originally used as a toll path during the California Gold Rush. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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